

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
SHINSUKE KOBAYASHI, ET AL.)	Examiner: Kaitlin S. Joerger
Application No.: 10/781,810)	Group Art Unit: 3653
Filed: February 20, 2004)	Confirmation No. 3940
For: SHEET TRANSPORT APPARATUS)	February 22, 2007
AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS)	

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed Japanese references, together with English-language Abstracts therefor, is also enclosed.

JP 2002-316733 has been cited for its disclosure of a curved path. However, this reference is not understood to teach or suggest the invention as recited in each of the independent claims.

JP 5-147764 discloses to nip an envelope fed out by a pair of rollers to expel air from inside the envelope. In JP 5-147764, the pair of rollers squeezes the swelling portion,

but this will cause wrinkles in the envelope or even possibly break the envelope. The reference does not disclose, as recited in claim 11, at least the feature of a rotary member arranged away from the transport guide by a predetermined distance to adequately press the swelling portion occurring in the envelope. Nor does it disclose or suggest the feature of ribs as a regulation member to press a swelling portion in an envelope, as called for by claim 17. JP 5-147764 merely discloses a pair of rollers.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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